

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 18757

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: CY TU UK
SUBJECT: UK VIEWS ON TURKEY/CYPRUS SITUATION

1. AT BRITISH INITIATIVE, FCO MINISTER OF STATE
FRANK JUDD MET WITH VISITING EUR/SE DEPUTY DIRECTOR
EWING TO UNDERLINE BRITISH CONCERN OVER RECENT TREND
OF EVENTS AFFECTING NATO'S SOUTHERN FLANK, INCLUDING
CYPRUS AND TURKISH ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES.

2. JUDD ASKED WHETHER U.S. CONCERN CENTERED ON TURKEY'S
CONTINUED MILITARY EFFECTIVENESS AS A NATO PARTNER, OR
WHETHER THE U.S. FORESAW THE POSSIBILITY OF A FUNDA-
MENTAL SHIFT IN TURKISH ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE WEST,
THE USSR, OR ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS IF THERE WERE NO EARLY
IMPROVEMENT IN TURKEY'S DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE
U.S. EWING SAID OUR OBJECTIVES WAS TO RESTORE A
HEALTHY DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP WITH TURKEY, AND TO GET
MOVEMENT ON CYPRUS. WE WERE ENCOURAGED THAT THE TURKS
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SEEMED TO WANT TO MOVE AHEAD ON BOTH FRONTS. EWING
ADDED THAT WE HOPED THAT TURKEY'S ON-GOING DISCUSSIONS
WITH THE IMF WOULD SUCCEED, BUT NOTED THAT WE WERE NOT
INVOLVED IN THIS PROCESS. IN RESPONSE TO JUDD QUESTION
RE POSSIBLE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL EFFECTS OF CONTINUING
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN TURKEY, EWING SAID TURKISH OFFI-
CIALS SEEMED TO RECOGNIZE NEED TO ADOPT ECONOMIC

MEASURES AND REACH UNDERSTANDING WITH FUND.

3. ON CYPRUS, JUDD STRESSED THAT HMG WAS COMMITTED BY POLITICAL INTEREST AND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION TO ASSIST IN REACHING A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. WHILE THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS COULD NOT BE LEFT ENTIRELY TO THE PARTIES, UK MINISTERS WERE ANXIOUS TO AVOID UK PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS. IN EFFECT, THE UK WANTS TO KEEP UP THE PRESSURE FOR MOVEMENT AND LOOKS TO THE U.S. ALONE, OR IN COMBINATION WITH KEY ALLIES, TO DO SO. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE CYPRUS ELECTION PERIOD WAS A VALID EXCUSE FOR INACTIVITY AND HOPED THAT PACE OF WORK ON CYPRUS COULD CONTINUE.

4. EWING ASSURED JUDD THAT U.S. INTEREST IN PURSUING A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT HAD NOT SLACKENED AND THAT ON THE BASIS OF OUR RECENT CONTACTS WITH TURKISH LEADERS WE WERE HOPEFUL THAT SOME MOVEMENT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

5. SEPARATELY, FCO STAFF (WINCHESTER) INDICATED THAT BRITISH WILL WISH TO DISCUSS UNFICYP FINANCING WITH DEPT IN SOME DETAIL, PROBABLY IN EARLY DECEMBER.

6. COMMENT: FOREGOING REMARKS BY JUDD SUM UP CURRENT UK VIEWS ON CYPRUS: WORRY ABOUT POTENTIAL FOR DETERIORATION.
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ORATION IN CYPRUS NEGOTIATING SITUATION AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN GENERALLY; A CERTAIN HIGH-LEVEL IMPATIENCE TO GET ON WITH CYPRUS SETTLEMENT AND IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH TURKEY; BUT WILLINGNESS TO AWAIT RESULTS OF KEY U.S. EFFORT TO MOVE CYPRUS NEGOTIATING PROCESS FORWARD AND ENHANCE U.S.-TURKISH DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP. HOWEVER, FCO OFFICIALS SEEM MORE SKEPTICAL THAT PROGRESS CAN BE ACHIEVED OVER THE NEAR TERM.

7. ACCORDINGLY, WE EXPECT MINISTERS WILL FOLLOW SITUATION CAREFULLY THROUGH PERIOD OF CYPRUS ELECTIONS, WEIGHING IMPACT OF U.S. EFFORTS AND EVOLUTION OF TURKISH INTERNAL SITUATION ON PROSPECTS FOR THE AREA. THEY WILL NOT HESITATE TO RESURRECT UK IDEAS FOR CONCERTED WESTERN APPROACH ON CYPRUS ISSUE SHOULD TURKS SHOW SIGNS OF BEING UNMOVED BY CURRENT AMERICAN EFFORTS. HOWEVER, WHAT NEW IDEAS OR FURTHER FORMS OF LEVERAGE THE UK (OR OTHER KEY WEST EUROPEANS) CAN OR WILL WISH TO EXERT ON THE PARTIES IS NOT YET EVIDENT HERE.

BREWSTER

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